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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMME AND INFORMATION COVERAGE OF THE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS

1. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 43/128, unanimously decided to launch the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In outlining the objectives of the World Campaign, the Assembly stated in particular that the activities of the Organization in the field of human rights should be strengthened in a global and practically oriented fashion, engaging the complementary activities of concerned bodies in the United Nations system, Member States and non-governmental organizations. Since the Campaign began more than three years ago, the activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Centre for Human Rights have been carried out within the constraints of existing budgetary resources. DPI's activities have been carried out primarily under the DPI budget theme "Human rights"; the Centre's activities have been carried out within the framework of its external relations and technical assistance programmes.

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2. Prior to the adoption of resolution 45/155 in which the General Assembly decided to convene the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly had before it the related statement by the Secretary-General of the programme budget implications (A/C.5/45/61). In paragraph 7 of that statement, the Secretary-General indicated that he would be in a better position to ascertain the additional requirements that would arise in the biennium 1992-1993 after the Preparatory Committee of the Conference had held its first session in September 1991.

3. Subsequently, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1991/30, recommended, inter alia, that the Preparatory Committee, when discussing the agenda for the World Conference, should base its work on the objectives outlined in General Assembly resolution 45/155, the recommendations annexed to its resolution 1991/30 and any other guidelines that might be adopted by the General Assembly. The annex to resolution 1991/30 included the recommendation that the Preparatory Committee should consider the results and further prospects of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights.

4. The Preparatory Committee, at its first session, decided, inter alia, that the Secretary-General should give the World Conference and the preparatory process thereto the widest possible publicity and ensure full coordination of public information activities in the area of human rights within the United Nations.

5. The programme budget implications of the requests regarding the World Conference were outlined in a statement (A/C.5/46/58) submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. It was proposed that the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information be strengthened to undertake the activities identified by the Preparatory Committee.

6. Resources amounting to $326,000 had already been included in section 28 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 under external printing. In addition, it was recommended that the Centre should be provided with the additional amounts of $100,000 for external printing and dissemination costs, $10,000 for a human rights prize, $30,000 for travel of staff and $20,000 for individuals participating as resource persons in meetings within the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. It was further proposed that the information programme on the World Conference to be carried out by DPI should include information products for dissemination in various formats, as well as other promotional activities. Proposed activities and resources, including those already mentioned in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the additional ones, were detailed in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General.

7. On the basis of that recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly approved an appropriation of $392,000 under section 31 of the budget for DPI for information activities and coverage requirements in connection with the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1992 and 1993, and the World Conference itself.

8. For the first six months of 1992 the Centre for Human Rights has received an allotment amounting to $472,000 which includes provisions for the activities outlined in paragraph 6 above.

9. The proposals for an information programme which are given below are intended to highlight human rights and the United Nations in connection with the preparations and convening of the World Conference and the objectives of the World Public Information Campaign. These proposals describe the objectives and elements of the public information programme to be carried out by DPI and the Centre for Human Rights, as well as DPI's coverage requirements for three sessions of the Preparatory Committee during 1992 and 1993 and the World Conference in 1993; no provision has been made for coverage of regional meetings.

I. PROPOSED INFORMATION PROGRAMME

A. Objectives

10. In launching the special public information programme for the World Conference, a number of steps have to be taken including selecting an identifiable logo and design format, outlining the objectives of the information programme, identifying the target audiences and establishing the activities to be included in the public information programme. Since the "flame" logo has become identified with United Nations action in the field of human rights as well as the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights it is proposed that this should also be used as the logo for the World Conference. An identifiable design format will be established, with the flame logo, for use on all public information materials published as part of the programme.

11. An effective public information programme for the World Conference will emphasize the purpose and objectives of the Conference. It will also aim to enhance public awareness of major human rights issues, keeping in view the equal importance and indivisibility of all categories of human rights as well as the interrelationship between human rights and development, in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations. The overall objective of the information programme will be to mobilize international public opinion in support of United Nations efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to publicize any programme of action which would result from the Conference. It will: (a) inform about the preparatory activities leading up to the Conference; (b) inform about the key issues of the agenda of the Conference; (c) help to create an awareness of the significance of the Conference and of the United Nations in the field of human rights; (d) highlight some of the basic issues relevant to the different regions of the world; and (e) continue to publicize existing United Nations declarations and international instruments.

12. The information programme outlined below will be targeted mainly to the following audience: media specially interested in human rights issues, government officials and parliamentarians, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutions and secondary school students.

B. Department of Public Information

13. The information programme on the World Conference to be carried out by DPI will comprise information products for dissemination in various formats (print, film, radio and television) as well as other promotional activities. The programme will comprise the following:

(a) A pre-Conference illustrated brochure on the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights and on the preparations for the Conference will be published in mid-1992 in the six official languages. The cost of producing 100,000 copies of the brochure will be $50,000;

(b) A multicolour poster for the Conference will be produced and distributed in late 1992 in the six official languages. The cost of producing 50,000 copies of the poster will be $66,000;

(c) A press information kit on the human rights situation and United Nations efforts to promote and protect human rights - within the context of the preparations for the Conference - will be produced in the fourth quarter of 1992 in English, French and Spanish. It will be aimed mainly at selected media organizations and non-governmental organizations worldwide. The cost of the production of 7,000 kits in the languages mentioned is estimated at $57,000. The cost will be met from the DPI regular budget (section 31);

(d) A series of background notes will be issued periodically within the United Nations Focus series (English, French and Spanish), to cover in greater detail the issues before the Conference. The cost of producing and distributing these articles ($10,000), which are targeted primarily at the mass media, will be absorbed by DPI;

(e) Special supplements on the issues before the Conference and pre-Conference activities will be printed prior to the Conference in the periodical United Nations Chronicle, which appears in the six official languages, and in the newspaper Development Forum, which appears in English, French and Spanish. The cost of these activities ($5,400) will be absorbed by DPI;

(f) A special edition of the publication Notes for Speakers will be produced in early 1993 in English (10,000 copies), French (5,000) and Spanish (5,000). The cost of producing the special edition is $60,000;

(g) Local information programmes will also be carried out by selected United Nations Information Centres and Information Services. These programmes will include the organization at the national level of information activities such as seminars, panel discussions, exhibits and the reproduction of information material into local languages to publicize the Conference. The cost of providing seed money to selected information centres will be $40,000;

(h) Reprints of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the official languages of the United Nations and in selected local languages, as well as of other international human rights instruments, will continue in 1992 and 1993. The cost for these activities ($35,000) will be absorbed by DPI under the 1992-1993 programme budget allocation for "Human rights";

(i) A series of special radio feature documentaries in the six official langauges of the United Nations and other languges will be produced within the "Perspective" series to highlight United Nations projects and activities in the field of human rights, preparations for the Conference and the outcome of the Conference. The additional cost of producing these programmes will be $25,000. The cost of producing additional language versions will be absorbed by DPI;

(j) Four segments of the television programme UN in Action will be produced for use on the Cable News Network (CNN) weekly programme World Report, which is seen in 90 countries. The Department will distribute these items in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish to other broadcasters worldwide. The additional cost of producing these programmes will be $20,000, with a further $13,000 absorbed by the Department;

(k) Two or more half-hour programmes in the television series World Chronicle will include interviews with leading personalities involved in the field of human rights and the preparations for the Conference. The cost of producing these programmes ($4,600) will be absorbed by DPI within the existing resources of the Department for 1992-1993;

(l) An inter-agency working group will be established by the Department in New York in the first half of 1992 to encourage joint as well as individual information activities, within the framework of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, in order to strengthen system-wide information activities on the Conference aimed at targeted audiences. No financial implications are expected to arise from this activity.

14. If extrabudgetary resources are available, the Department will provide fellowships for journalists from developing countries to attend a two-day pre-Conference Journalists Encounter and the Conference itself. They would be briefed on the main issues on the agenda. The Encounter would also be open to all journalists accredited to the Conference. The cost for the travel and per diem of the journalists selected from developing countries to attend the Encounter and to cover the Conference would be an additional $75,000.

C. Centre for Human Rights

15. In order to utilize the opportunities offered by the World Conference for Human Rights in 1993, the following public information activities will be undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights:

(a) A human rights prize will be awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights. The last time such a prize was awarded was in 1988 for the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see General Assembly resolution 41/150). The cost would be $10,000;

(b) A special series of Fact Sheets will be devoted to the World Conference in general, the preparatory process and some of the substantive items of the agenda. Resources are available within the programme budget of the Centre for the biennium 1992-1993;

(c) Two special issues of the Human Rights Bulletin containing articles by international personalities from all parts of the world will be devoted to the objectives and possible results of the World Conference. Resources are available within the programme budget of the Centre for the biennium 1992-1993;

(d) Staff of the Centre will cooperate and participate in meetings in all regions, within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, to sensitize specific target groups (non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, parliamentarians, the media, etc.) on the aims and objectives of the World Conference. The cost of these activities would be $50,000;

(e) A publication entitled Questions and Answers on the World Conference on Human Rights will be produced from within the resources available to the Centre for external printing;

(f) The Human Rights Newsletter will place a special focus on events realted to the preparatory process and the Conference in all forthcoming issues. Special issues will be devoted to the Conference itself;

(g) The Centre will develop a teaching manual for human rights education at higher levels to be widely distributed in schools, together with ABC: Teaching Human Rights, the manual for primary and secondary schools;

(h) There will be wider dissemination by the Centre of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting which contains information for Governments fulfilling their reporting obligations under six human rights instruments. Resources will be available from within the Centre's budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

(i) The Centre will continue to cooperate with the Department of Public Information in the translation, printing and distribution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in national and local languages;

(j) Basic assistance will be provided by the Centre to support national focal points for the World Conference, including general information and documentation on human rights and on the Conference itself.

II. COVERAGE OF SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND OF THE CONFERENCE

16. DPI's plans to cover the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference are based on the decisions of the General Assembly contained in resolution 46/116, i.e. that the Preparatory Committee will meet for three further sessions at Geneva in 1992 and 1993 (a total of five to six weeks) and that the Conference will meet for 10 working days.

17. For the purposes of planning, it has been assumed that the Conference will be held at Geneva and that it will comprise a plenary and two committees meeting simultaneously, for a total of six meetings daily. It has also been assumed that press coverage of the Conference will be in English and French only.

18. Travel for the DPI Project Manager for Human Rights to the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1992 and 1993 is estimated at $12,000.

19. The cost for information coverage by the Department of the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1992 and 1993 is estimated to be between $20,000 and $24,000.

20. Based on the assumptions that the Conference will be held at Geneva, the seat of the Conference secretariat, and that there will be three simultaneous meetings and two working languages, resource requirements are calculated at $99,000. This figure is based on DPI's workload standards for major conferences, as submitted to the Controller in November 1990 (see annex). Additional meetings and/or languages would entail additional costs. In the event that a Member States offers to host the Conference at a site outside Geneva, the host country would have to defray the difference in the costs (additional staff, travel and subsistence allowance), in accordance with established procedures.

Annex

DPI Information Coverage Requirements for the World Conference on Human Rights

	COLUMN A DPI revised workload standards submitted to Controller 29/11/90 Major conference a/ 2 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)			COLUMN B DPI coverage requirements d/ for World Conference on Human Rights on assumption that it is held in Geneva 3 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)		
	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total
Coordinator/Spokesperson	1 b/	-		-	-	
Information Officer/ Project Manager	1	-		1	-	
Media Liaison Officer	1	-		-	-	
Secretary (bilingual)	1	-		-	-	
Subtotal	4	-	4	1	-	1
Editors/Press Officer (E, F) c/	8	-		12	-	
Typing pool supervisor/ proofreader (E, F) c/	2	-		2	-	
Typists (E, F) c/	-	4		3*	3*	
Telex operators	-	4		-	2	
Mimeo operators/fax/ photocopiers	-	2				
Messengers	-	2		-	2	
Subtotal	10	12	22	17*	7*	24

* If computers are not available in the conference rooms, an additional typist would be required for each language.

	COLUMN A DPI revised workload standards submitted to Controller 29/11/90 Major conference a/ 2 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)			COLUMN B DPI coverage requirements d/ for World Conference on Human Rights on assumption that it is held in Geneva 3 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)		
	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total
Accreditation Officers	1	-		-	-	
Accreditation clerks	-	2		-	1	
Documents Officer	1	-		-	-	
Document clerks	-	2		-	1	
Subtotal	2	4	6	-	2	2
Radio Officers (E, F, S)	3	-		3	-	
Production assistants	-	3		-	3	
Radio engineers	-	5		-	5	
Subtotal	3	8	11	3	8	11
TV-News producer	1	-		1	-	
Camera operator	1	-		1	-	
Audio-Visual Facilities Officers	1	-		-	-	
Sound recordist	1	-		1	-	
Projectionist	-	1		-	-	
Subtotal	4	1	5	3	-	3

	COLUMN A DPI revised workload standards submitted to Controller 29/11/90 Major conference a/ 2 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)			COLUMN B DPI coverage requirements d/ for World Conference on Human Rights on assumption that it is held in Geneva 3 simultaneous meetings (English & French only)		
	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total
Photographer	1	-		1	-	
Photo editor	1	-		1	-	
Exhibition coordinator	-	-		-	-	
Darkroom technician	-	1		-	1	
Photo distribution clerk	-	1		-	1	
Subtotal	2	2	4	2	2	4
NGO Liaison Officer	1	-		-	-	
UNIC Liaision Officer	1	-		-	-	
NGO Liaison Clerk	-	-		-	-	
Secretary	1	2		-	-	
Subtotal	3	2	5	-	-	-
TOTAL	28	29	57	26	19	45

a/ Major conference: where there are two simultaneous open meetings.

b/ The only circumstance under which the Office of the Spokesman would be involved in conference coverage would be when the Secretary-General himself is participating and a member of the Office of the Spokesman is accompanying him.

c/ In cases where a conference involves more than two official languages, there would be need for additional staff for coverage

d/ DPI coverage requirements in addition to available staff in Geneva.